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SOURCE 1953 Ching-chi Nien-pao (The 1953 Economic Yearbook), pp 60-62.

NORTH CHINA ECONOMY IN 1952

[Comment: This report summarizes an article entitled, "The Development of North China Economy," by Cheng Chi published in the pro-Communist 1953 Ching-chi Nien-pao (The 1953 Economic Yearbook) on 5 February 1953. The report gives data on industries, agriculture, stock breeding, forestry, and living standards in North China.]

A. Industries

The 1952 industrial production of North China, including iron, steel, coal, electric power, machinery, cement, and textiles, was 61 percent greater than 1951 and was valued at 7,497,500,000,000 yuan. This surpassed by 24.9 percent the 6 trillion yuan production goal set for 1952 under the "practice economy, increase production" movement. The mining industry under the Central People's Government surpassed by 46.6 percent the 800 billion yuan production goal set for 1952 under the "practice economy, increase production" movement.

The Tientsin Steel and Iron Works surpassed its 1952 production goal as follows: circular steel rods, 125 percent; flat steel rods, 130 percent. The T'ai-yuan Steel and Iron Works also surpassed its 1952 production goal as follows: steel ingots, 100.49 percent; pig iron, 112.24 percent; and steel construction material, 120.3 percent.

Private industries were greatly developed in 1952. For example, the Tung-ya Enterprises of Tientsin increased the employees of the Hemp Bags Manufacturing Plant to 1,721 in 1952, and raised its production of hemp bags by 284.25 percent over 1949. The Pei-yang Cotton Yarn Factory of Tientsin produced an average of 2,400 bundles of cotton yarn per month during 1952.

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The agricultural production of Chahar for 1952 was 19.4 percent greater than the year prior to World War II. The foodstuff production of Suiyuan for 1952 was 15 percent greater than 1949. The foodstuff production of P'u-yang Special Administrative District, Pingyuan, for 1952 was 2,241,900 catties, or 22 percent greater than the year prior to World War II. The wheat production of Honan for 1952 was 26.6 percent greater than 1951.

C. Stock Breeding and Forestry

The over-all 1952 livestock production of Suiyuan showed 65.8 percent increase over 1949. In the case of sheep and goats, however, there was an increase of 83.85 percent over 1949. Horse breeding in this province has not only regained but has surpassed the prewar level as follows: 1937, 151,000 head; 1949, 116,000 head; and 1952, 166,800 head.

The lumber output of Hopeh is expected to reach 41,527.5 cubic meters by 1957. Forestry work undertaken in Hopeh in 1952 included caring for 960,000 mou; reforestation, 42,000 mou; and raising seedlings, 2,600 mou.

D. General Economic Conditions

In 1952, the number of savings accounts in the banks of Tientsin increased 62 percent over 1951. A preliminary survey in August 1952 alone showed that some 160,000 workers were depositing their savings with the Tientsin People's Bank. The total number of depositors in Tientsin by the end of 1952 was 395,387.

In 1952, the North China public and private industries gave the workers 40 to 80 percent wage increases as a result of production increases.

The purchasing power of rural and urban areas in North China for 1952 was 16.3 percent greater than 1951. However, Honan rural purchasing power for 1952 was only 12.2 percent greater than in 1951.

About 1,200 small-scale commodities exchange conferences were held in North China during the first half of 1952. Transactions concluded at these conferences included the sales of 780 million catties of fertilizers, 30,000 plows, and 92,916 water wheels.

During the first half of 1952 the sale of cloth and miscellaneous products in North China was 50 percent greater than during the same period in 1951.

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